

Presents Congressional Citation at Gala for Urban League's Empowerment Week

June 5, 2010

PHILADELPHIA, PA — Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) joined the Urban League of Philadelphia to celebrate the culmination of the 2010 Empowerment Week. Hosted by the Urban League of Philadelphia, this week and tonight's gala both centered on the same theme: *I Am Empowered: Enacting the Vision, Impacting the Future*. Currently celebrating its 100th anniversary, the National Urban League and its regional affiliates work to "empower African-Americans and other people in need to secure economic self-reliance, parity, power, and civil rights."

During the event, Congressman Sestak presented a Congressional Citation to Mr. John A. Dawkins, III, CEO of Jo-Dan Enterprises, winner of the Urban League's Spirit of Innovation Award which recognizes a minority-owned business that has increased access to economic equality for others.

“John Dawkins embodies the mission of the Urban League of Philadelphia in both his entrepreneurial successes and his commitment to giving back,” Joe said. “His successful management of his McDonald’s restaurants enable him to partner with communities and increase the prosperity and well-being of deserving individuals. Not only has he achieved his own dream, but he has enabled so many others to successfully pursue theirs. His example has inspired his children and countless others to follow in his entrepreneurial footsteps, a boon for us all.”

As outlined on the Urban League’s website, “Empowerment Week includes a number of activities bringing greater awareness to the impact of diversity and inclusion. This week provides an opportunity for the Greater Philadelphia community to engage in the empowering programming of the Urban League of Philadelphia and to experience the connection between the community and area corporations, small business owners, legislative and civic leaders.”

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of “Deep Blue,” the Navy’s anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the “Global War on Terrorism.” He served as President Clinton’s Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.

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